

Message Text

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71

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAB-01 SAJ-01 OMB-01

NIC-01 AID-20 ACDA-19 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 XMB-07

DRC-01 /206 W

----- 120706

R 051415Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7659

IRUEKJCS/DIA WASHDC

USCINCSO

INFO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: CI, PE, PFOR, IS, CU, UR

SUBJ: PERUVIAN AMBASSADOR DEFENDS SOVIET ARMS PURCHASES

REF: SANTIAGO 773

1. SUMMARY. PERUVIAN AMBASSADOR TO CHILE DEFENDS SOVIET TANK PURCHASE AS NORMAL REPLACEMENT OF ARMS FROM SOURCE WHICH OFFERED BEST PRICE. PURCHASE FROM US IMPOSSIBLE BECAUSE OF US CREDIT CUTOFF IN RETALIATION PERUVIAN EXPROPRIATION US COMPANIES. AMBASSADOR DENIED PRESENCE SOVIET ROCKETS OR ISRAELI INSTRUCTORS IN PERU. END SUMMARY.

2. PERUVIAN AMBASSADOR TO CHILE ARTURO GARCIA, IN INTERVIEW WITH SANTIAGO PAPER LA TERCERA PUBLISHED MAR 2, STRONGLY
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DEFENDED PERUVIAN PURCHASE OF SOVIET TANKS. GARCIA

INSISTED TANKS WERE NORMAL REPLACEMENT OF OBSOLETE ARMS. HE CLAIMED NOT TO KNOW HOW MANY HAD BEEN PURCHASED AND THAT WHILE IT WAS "PROBABLE" THAT SOME SOVIET INSTRUCTORS HAD COME WITH THE TANKS, THESE INSTRUCTORS WERE IN NO WAY "MILITARY ADVISORS." SINCE DEPARTURE OF US MISSION SOME YEARS AGO PERU HAD HAD NO FOREIGN ADVISORS AND WANTED TO KEEP OUT OF SUPERPOWER RIVALRIES. TANKS WERE PURCHASED FROM RUSSIA BECAUSE US "HAD NO TANKS FOR SALE TO PERU" DUE US CUT-OFF OF CREDITS IN RESPONSE GOC "EXPROPRIATION" US COMPANIES AND CONDITIONS OF SALE MORE ADVANTAGEOUS FROM RUSSIANS.

2. GARCIA REFUTED AS "GROTESQUE" SANTIAGO PRESS STORIES OF SOVIET ROCKETS IN PERU, STATING THAT RUSSIA WOULD NOT WANT TO REPEAT CUBAN EXPERIENCE IN PERU, AND PERU WOULD NOT PERMIT FOREIGN OPERATIONS OF WEAPONS ON PERUVIAN SOIL IN ANY EVENT. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION ABOUT WASHINGTON REPORTS OF GOP DESIRE TO PURCHASE SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILES, GARCIA NOTED SAMS PURELY DEFENSIVE ARMS AND IF GOP ACQUIRED THEM THEY WOULD BE "SMALL, OR SIMPLY MOBILE UNITS" (I.E. OF NO OFFENSIVE DANGER TO CHILE.)

3. GARCIA CITED PRES VELASCO CALL FOR ARMS FREEZE AS CONCRETE EVIDENCE OF PERUVIAN DESIRE AVOID AMRS RACE.

4. CLAIMS OF PRESENCE OF ISRAELI INSTRUCTORS IN PERU WERE "ABSOLUTELY FALSE." GARCIA SAID THERE WERE NOT NOW AND WOULD NOT BE IN THE FUTURE ISRAELI INSTRUCTORS IN PERU.
POPPER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMS, PROCUREMENT, MISSILES, ROCKETS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, REARMAMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SANTIA01046
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SANTIAGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740367/aaaacket.tel
Line Count: 94
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: SANTIAGO 773
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 JUN 2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <11 JUN 2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PERUVIAN AMBASSADOR DEFENDS SOVIET ARMS PURCHASES
TAGS: PFOR, CI, PE, IS, CU
To: STATE USCINCSO
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005